

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19-21, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A hinged cover comprising:

a spine having an inner surface; and

two rigid panels, each said panel coupled to said spine and disposed rotatably with respect to said spine and having an outer surface;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the hinged cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other;

wherein said spine serves as a hinge stop for each said rigid panel, such that each said panel, when rotated toward the other said panel, is constrained from rotating substantially beyond 90 degrees with respect to said spine; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 2 (original):** A hinged cover as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid panels, at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** A hinged cover comprising:

a spine having an inner surface; and

two rigid panels having outer surfaces, at least one said panel hingeably coupled to said spine, such that the rotation of said panel is substantially limited by a configuration between said panel and said spine wherein said spine serves as a hinge stop for said panel;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the hinged cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 4 (original):** A hinged cover as claimed in claim 3, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid panels, at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data.

**Claim 5 (currently amended):** A hinged cover comprising:

a spine having an inner surface and an outside surface; and

two rigid panels having outer surfaces, said rigid panels hingeably coupled to said spine, wherein the axis of travel about which at least one said panel rotates is situated on the outside surface of said spine;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the hinged cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 6 (original):** A hinged cover as claimed in claim 5, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid panels, at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** A book cover ~~for housing a plurality of pages~~ comprising:

a spine panel having an inner surface; and

two rigid cover panels having outer surfaces, said rigid cover panels disposed rotatably with respect to said spine panel such that said spine panel serves as a hinge stop for each said rigid cover ~~[[panel,]] panel~~, wherein the endpoint of inward rotation of each said rigid cover panel is independent of the thickness of ~~a plurality of pages~~ any contents housed ~~[[in]]~~ within said book cover;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid cover panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine panel when the book cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid cover panel is constrained by contact with said spine panel and independently of contact with any other surface.

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**Claim 8 (original):** A book cover as claimed in claim 7, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid cover panels, at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 9 (currently amended):** An outside-hinged cover for housing at least one object therein comprising:

a spine panel having an inner surface; and

~~two~~ front and rear rigid cover panels having outer surfaces, said rigid cover panels disposed rotatably with respect to said spine; wherein

said at least one object is disposed between said rigid cover panels;

wherein the thickness of said spine panel is greater than the combined thickness of the front panel, all of the objects housed therein, and the ~~back~~ rear panel; and

wherein said spine panel serves as a hinge stop for each said rigid cover panel, such that each said rigid cover panel, when rotated toward the other said rigid cover panel, is constrained from rotating substantially beyond 90 degrees with respect to said spine panel;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid cover panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine panel when the outside-hinged cover is opened to a position in

which the rigid cover panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid cover panel is constrained by contact with said spine panel and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 10 (original):** An outside-hinged cover as claimed in claim 9, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid cover panels, at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 11 (currently amended):** An outside-hinged cover for housing at least one object therein comprising:

a spine panel having an inner surface; and

two rigid cover panels having outer surfaces, said rigid cover panels disposed rotatably with respect to said spine;

wherein said spine panel and said rigid cover panels are disposed such that each said rigid cover panel, when rotated toward the other said rigid cover panel, is constrained from rotating substantially beyond 90 degrees with respect to said spine panel, independent of whether any of said objects stored therein are attached to the inside of said spine panel;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid cover panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine panel when the outside-hinged cover is opened to a position in which the rigid cover panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid cover panel is constrained by contact with said spine panel and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 12 (original):** An outside-hinged cover as claimed in claim 11, further comprising, disposed between said two rigid cover panels, at least one of the following: at least

one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 13 (currently amended):** A method of constructing a cover comprising:

forming a cover having rigid front, rear and spine panels by disposing a rigid front, rear, and spine panel core onto a sheet of pliable material, such that the width of the space between said spine panel core and said other panel cores is based on at least the sum of the thickness of said spine panel core and twice the thickness of said sheet of pliable material;

wherein said spine panel has an inner surface;

wherein said rigid front and rear panels are formed so as to have outer surfaces that are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine panel when the cover is opened to a position in which the rigid front and rear panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine panel and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 14 (original):** A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising disposing between said front and rear rigid panels at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 15 (currently amended):** A method of constructing a cover comprising:

hingeably coupling two rigid panels having outer surfaces to a spine having an inner surface,

wherein each said panel, when rotated toward the other said panel, is constrained from rotating substantially beyond 90 degrees with respect to said spine based on said spine serving as a hinge stop for each said panel,

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other, and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 16 (original):** A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising disposing between said rigid panels at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 17 (currently amended):** A method of constructing a book cover comprising:

hingeably coupling two rigid panels having outer surfaces to a spine having an inner surface and an outside surface, in a configuration, wherein said spine serves as a hinge stop for each said rigid panel,

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wherein the axis of travel about which at least one said panel rotates is situated on the outside surface of said spine, and the endpoint of inward rotation of each said panel is independent of the thickness of a plurality of pages housed in said book cover,

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the book cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 18 (original):** A method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising disposing between said rigid panels at least one of the following: at least one sheet of paper, a CD, a CD-ROM, a diskette, a tape, a boss for holding a CD or CD-ROM, a device for holding a storage medium for audio, music, video, pictures, software, or data, a stamp collection, a coin collection, a general collection of items, a photograph, a cassette, a scrapbook page, an electronic storage medium.

**Claim 19 (currently amended):** A compact disc cover comprising:

a spine having an inner surface;

two rigid panels, each said panel having an outer surface and being coupled to said spine and disposed rotatably with respect to said spine;

a CD holder disposed between said rigid panels; and

a plurality of pages disposed between said rigid panels;



wherein each said panel, when rotated toward the other said panel, is constrained from rotating substantially beyond 90 degrees with respect to said spine based on said spine serving as a hinge stop for each said rigid panel;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the compact disc cover is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** A data storage medium product comprising:

a spine having an inner surface and an outside surface;

two rigid panels having outer surfaces, said rigid panels hingeably coupled to said spine;

a data storage medium; and

a plurality of pages disposed between said rigid panels;

wherein the axis of travel about which at least one said panel rotates is situated on the outside surface of said spine;

wherein the outer surfaces of said rigid panels are essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the data storage medium product is opened to a position in which the rigid panels are disposed at 180 degrees with respect to each other; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said rigid panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 21 (currently amended):** A hinged cover comprising:

a spine having an outside edge and an inner surface;

at least one panel having an inside edge and a bottom surface, said panel hingeably coupled to said outside edge of said spine, wherein said panel is adapted to interface with said spine, said spine serving as a hinge stop;

wherein the sum of the angle of said inside edge of said panel measured relative to said bottom surface of said panel and the angle of said outside edge of said spine measured relative to said bottom surface of said panel is 90 degrees;

wherein the bottom surface of said panel is essentially coplanar with the inner surface of said spine when the hinged cover is opened to a position in which said panel and said spine lie in substantially parallel lines; and

wherein the inward rotation of each said panel is constrained by contact with said spine and independently of contact with any other surface.

**Claim 22 (original):** A hinged cover comprising:

a sheet of pliable material; and

rigid front, rear, and spine panel cores coupled to said sheet of pliable material, said front and rear panel cores disposed opposite one another adjacent said spine panel core, said panel cores having substantially trapezoidal cross-sections, the cross-section of said spine panel core having two outside edges and a bottom edge, and the cross-section of said front and rear panel cores having an inside edge and a bottom edge;

wherein the sum of the angle of said inside edge of said front or rear panel core measured relative to said bottom edge of said front or rear panel core and the angle of said

adjacent outside edge of said spine panel core measured relative to said bottom surface of said spine panel core is 90 degrees.

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheets of drawings include amended Figure 2, newly added Figure 2A and Figure 6A. Two replacement sheets, one containing original Figure 1C, amended Figure 2 and newly added Figure 2A, and the other containing original Figure 6 and newly added Figure 6A, are attached.

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